

IG Bulletin



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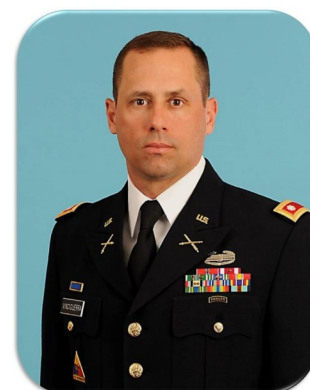
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Inspector General Observations

By LTC Gregory S. Vinciguerra, Command Inspector General



Ten Steps for Success with the IG

By Mr. Lloyd E. Dixon, Deputy Inspector General

For maximum benefit from interaction with the IG, leaders and Soldiers must understand the capabilities and appropriateness of the IG system. Inspectors General are not commanders and cannot take direct action. Inspectors General must operate within the same DoD, DA and other regulatory and policy framework as everyone else. Inspectors General assist personnel with issues but in many instances cannot resolve issues without information or documentation which must be provided to the IG.

Inspectors General do not conduct many actions which the person bringing the issue must do for him or herself, such as an NCOER appeal. The NCOER appeals process is an existing means of redress in DA policy, as are many other avenues of redress for other circumstances. The IG will work with persons to understand the recommended solution for his/her

problem, but in many cases the person seeing the IG must conduct the action on his or her own, such as submitting the appeal discussed above – the IG will not submit this document on behalf of someone if a redress process exists.

Leaders and Soldiers must understand the IG system and use it properly. All leaders are encouraged to inform their personnel on the following ten steps for Success with the IG.

1. Be sure there is a problem: Personal peevess can loom large in a person's mind, but there is little to nothing the IG can do about a peeve. If the food in the DFAC is consistently cold or the DFAC is unsanitary, that's a problem. If someone doesn't like the menu for one particular meal, that's a peeve.

2. Give the Chain of Command a chance to solve the problem: The chain of command is the first stopping point for re-

solving problems. A Chaplain, Congressman or local IG can help out if appropriate, but they often must ultimately work with the chain of command to gain a resolution to the issue.

3. Try all other appropriate remedies: The IG is sort of a "court of last resort". If other remedies are available they should be used first.

4. Deal with the closest IG; it will speed up the process: The IG at a major command or Army level cannot personally investigate each complaint. In most cases the higher IG will refer issues and requests to the IG at the level nearest that of the complainant. That IG will then inquire into all aspects of the case and provide all the information to the IG at the higher level.

See Steps for Success, page 2

Steps for Success cont.

This is not intended to imply that a Soldier cannot deal with an IG at any level desired. The problem may be so sensitive that the Soldier is reluctant to discuss it with anyone assigned to his or her own unit.

5. Level with the IG; the IG will know soon enough if the truth is being twisted: If an IG is asked to address an issue which the complainant knows to be unfounded, if information brought to the IG is not truthful, or the complainant simply wishes an outcome to be changed to benefit the complainant despite the outcome being legal and founded in regulation, this will result in wasted time and effort on the part of the IG and the command. If a policy is perceived to be unjust, illegal or improper, the IG can inquire into it or recommend a way ahead IAW #6 below.

6. Keep in mind the IG's regulatory and statutory limits: The IG cannot change a regulation just because it does

not suit an individual. The IG can, however, recommend changes to regulations or policy determined to be inappropriate or unfair, or recommend that a non-IG person or organization recommend changes.

7. An IG is not a commander and can only make recommendations, not give an order: Some Soldiers get upset because nothing seems to happen as a result of their complaint. Keep in mind that the IG can only advise, not order a commander. There may be good reasons why the IG recommendation was not acted upon or has not yet been acted upon.

8. IG's can only resolve a case on the basis of provable facts: An IG uses proof and evidence to resolve cases, and gathers information from a broad spectrum or persons and sources. Also, just because a person says their supervisor violated a regulation does not make it a proven fact.

9. Do not read evil thoughts into an ongoing investigation or inquiry: It is human nature to look at things from a very

personal point of view. Some Soldiers assume the commander has intervened and muzzled the IG if they do not hear the results of the investigation/inquiry immediately. Heavy workloads require time.

10. Be prepared to take "NO" for an answer: Do not assume that a negative answer from the IG is wrong just because it is unpalatable. IG answers are based on regulation and policy. If the Soldier is absolutely certain the answer is wrong, and if he or she has some additional evidence to support that certainty, the case may be reconsidered. If a person is merely unhappy because the resolution or answer provided was not what the individual wanted to hear, the answer cannot change unless the underlying regulation or policy changes.



Upcoming Inspections

The Fort Sill Inspector General typically conducts at least one special inspection (directed by the CG) every quarter; and sometimes more when a special situation dictates the necessity. Other Inspectors General (e.g. TRA-DOC IG, DAIG, FORSCOM IG) also conduct annual and quarterly inspections. Inspections do not always affect all units and coordination directly with the affected units will occur as soon as details are known. The following are the inspections that are currently on the calendar that will potentially affect Fort Sill units and directorates.

DATE	Inspecting Agency	Units Affected	Inspection Topic
26 JAN 15 - 6 FEB 15	FCoE IG	30th ADA, 31st ADA, 75th FiB, 214th FiB, 428th FA, 434th FA, MEDDAC, USAG-FS, FCoE HQs-Det	Pregnancy / Postpartum Physical Training
23 FEB 15 - 27 FEB 15	HQDA IG	31st ADA, 75th FiB, FCoE-IG, DEN-TAC, MEDDAC, USAG-FS, DES, G-2	U.S. Army Occupational Reliability
20 APR 15 - 30 APR 15	FCoE IG	30th ADA, 428th FA, 434th FA, FCoE-HQs Det (subordinate directorates)	Counseling
15 JUN 15 - 19 JUN 15	FCoE IG SRMC IG	MEDDAC & WTU	Warrior Transition Unit Housing

IG Contact Information



For questions or assistance, or to file a complaint:

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"Droit-et-Avant"



"Right-then-Forward"